## REMARKS

Applicants have reviewed the decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences dated June 26, 2009, and wish to continue prosecution of this application in view of further amendments to the claim that place the application in condition for allowance.

**Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Walker (U.S. Patent No. 4,150,836).**

The Board first considered whether Walker taught "a closure ... with a planar surface from which projects an axially projecting stopper portion that fits closely within the opening". The Board held that the axially projected stopper portion in Walker included the threaded portion (14), thread relief (30) and cutout (28), comprising smooth curve (32), frusto-conical portion (34) and semi-toroidal portion (38) that contacts the surfaced ring portion (40).

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to refer to "an axially projecting stopper portion that directly projects from the planar surface and fits closely and entirely within the opening." Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments distinguish the claimed seal configuration from Walker, in that the stopper portion in Walker includes a cutout portion that causes it to indirectly project from the planar surface, rather than directly projecting, as claimed. Furthermore, as the cutout portion is recessed from the planar surface, the stopper portion as defined by the Board cannot fit entirely within the opening.

Applicants have further amended Claim 1 to recite "the backing ring plastically extruding radially outward along the planar surface" when the peripheral seal is extruded against the backing ring. As the backup ring (42) in Walker is positioned in the cutout (28), it cannot extrude radially outward along the planar surface. Furthermore, as it has been held by the Board that the cutout (28) is part of the stopper portion, the backup ring (42) extrudes only against the stopper portion, and is not in contact with the planar surface.

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Finally, applicants have further amended Claim 1 such that it now recites that the seal configuration is used in relation with closure doors on "blowout preventer" pressure vessels. Support for this amendment an be found at paragraphs 13 and 14 of the present application. Applicants submit that this further recitation distinguishes Claim 1 from Walker as Walker relates to aerospace applications, where the pressure that is sealed against is much lower than those encountered in blowout preventer pressure vessels.

Applicant therefore submits that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Walker.

**Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Williamson (U.S. Patent No. 5,115,550).**

The Board did not consider this rejection. However, applicants have amended Claim 1 to refer to "a backing ring ... positioned in close fitting relation around the projecting stopper portion between the peripheral seal groove and the planar surface of the attachment portion of the closure, the backing ring being axially supported against pressure from the opening entirely by the planar surface." Williamson does not teach this. In Williamson, the lock nut (18) is supported by the threads, and is not supported by the adapter (46), which the Examiner has compared to the claimed closure. In FIG. 1 through 6, which are the drawings that include the adapter (46), there is always a gap between the adapter (46) and the lock nut (18). Furthermore, even if there were support for finding that the adapter (46) was tightened against the lock nut (48), the lock nut (48) would still be supported at least partially by its threaded connection, and therefore not "supported against pressure from the opening entirely by the planar surface" of the attachment portion of the closure.

Furthermore, as stated above, applicants have further amended Claim 1 to recite "the backing ring plastically extruding radially outward along the planar surface" when the peripheral seal is extruded against the backing ring. The lock nut (48) taught by Williamson does not meet this limitation. The lock nut (48) is made from metal and therefore does not plastically extrude

radially outward. The lock nut (48), and in particular the skirt portion (48), is spaced from the adapter (46), and is therefore not positioned against the planar surface to extrude radially outward along it. Finally, the skirt portion (58) deforms radially inward during installation, and as it is made from metal, it cannot extrude outward under pressure.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Williamson.

## CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and arguments, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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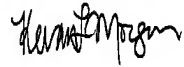

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